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IN THE

Supreme Court of the United States

OCTOBER TERM, 1973

No. 73-1281

MEL TONASKET, et al.,
Petitioners,
v.
ALICE M. THOMPSON,
Respondent.

NARCISSE NICHOLSON, JR., et al.,
Petitioners,
v.
JUNE KAREN LABAMIE, et al.,
Respondents.

PETITION FOR WRITS OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

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These cases involve the question whether the Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968, 25 U.S.C. §§1301-3, waives all sovereign immunity of Indian Tribes from suit in federal courts and vests federal courts with jurisdiction to determine questions of tribal membership.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has interpreted 25 U.S.C. §§1301-3 in such broad fashion as to annihilate the long-standing sovereign immunity of Indian tribes from suit in federal courts, destroy the internal sovereign right of Indian tribes to determine their own membership—a right carefully established and protected by decisions of